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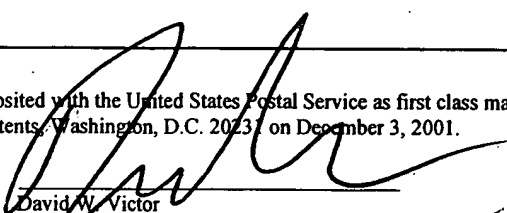
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Applicant: A.H. Christofferson et al. Examiner: K.Y. Vu
Serial No.: 09/409,613 Group Art Unit: 2172
Filed: October 1, 1999 Docket No.: RO999091
TITLE: METHOD, SYSTEM, AND PROGRAM FOR ACCESSING FILES IN A FILE
SYSTEM

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on December 3, 2001.


David W. Victor

AMENDMENT

RECEIVED

MAR 21 2002

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Technology Center 2100

Dear Sir:

This paper is submitted in response to the to a first non-final office action ("Office Action") entered in the above case on August 1, 2001. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected all pending claims 1-27 in view of cited art. Applicants traverse these rejections for the reasons discussed herein and submit that the pending claims, including the added claims 28-36, are patentable over the cited art and in condition for allowance.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please add claims 28-36 as follows:

28. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

searching the file system for one preexisting file having the same name as the input file name if the data structure indicates that one preexisting file has a name that maps, according to the function, to the same value to which the input file maps; and

performing an operation if the file system includes one preexisting file having the same name as the input file.